



The President's Daily Brief

5 August 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

About 90 SAM firing battalions have now been identified in Egypt. (Page 1)

The tenuous truce between Jordanian King Husayn and the fedayeen may come apart. (Page 2)

The Cambodian situation is discussed on Page 3.

The Soviet Flogger swing-wing fighter will probably be operational this year. (Page 4)

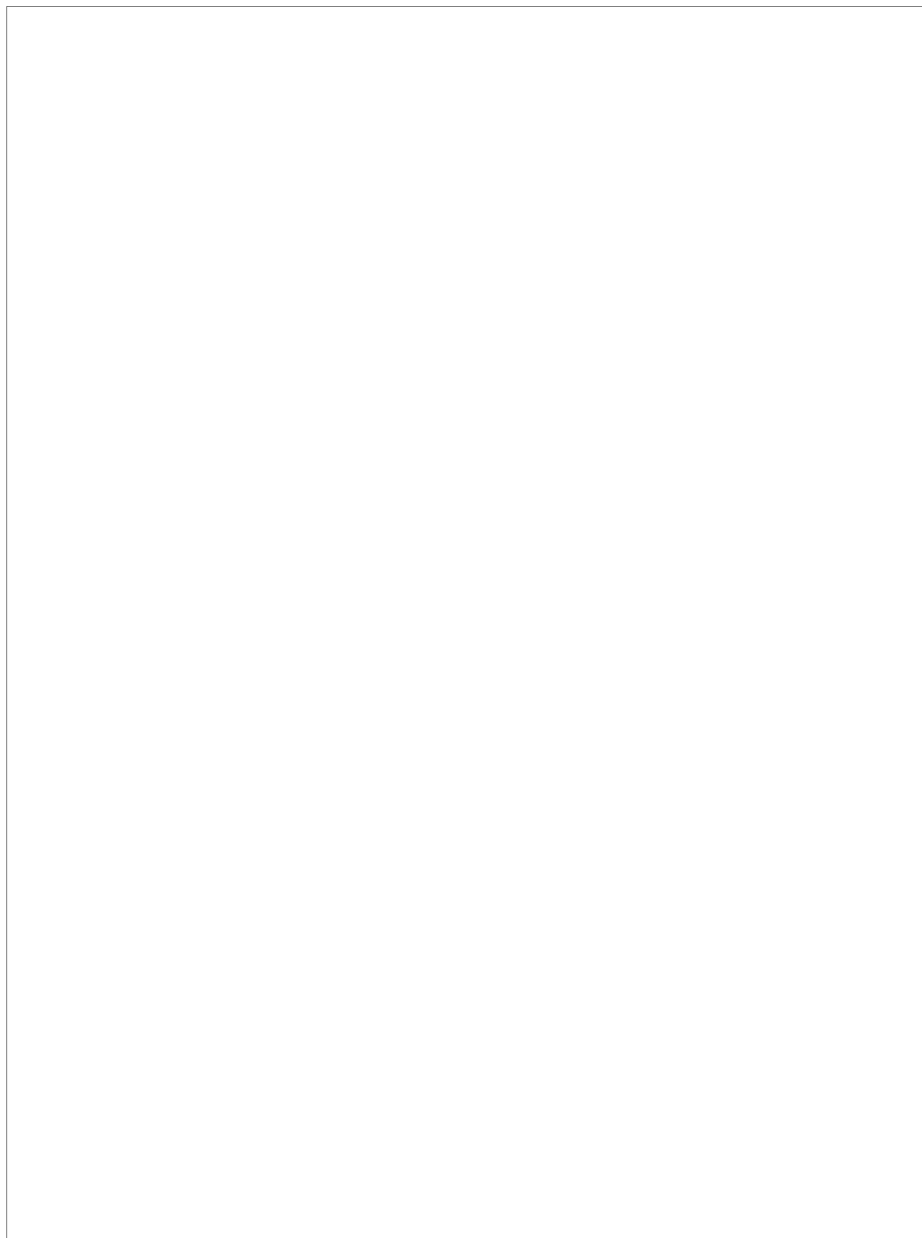
Specially equipped Soviet AN-12 transports have appeared in Egypt. (Page 5)

Colombo will probably tell Saragat he can form a new Italian Government. (Page 6)

The Chinese
(Page 7)

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EGYPT

The latest satellite photography provides us with this year's most extensive coverage of SAM facilities in Egypt. We have now identified about 90 SAM firing battalions in the country; some 70 are units that fire SA-2's and 20 specialize in the SA-3. These battalions can be moved, in short periods of time, to any of some 250 SAM sites. Most of these are positioned throughout an area that encompasses Cairo and a zone extending northeastward toward Suez and Ismailia. A number of these sites are within a five- to 15-mile band along the canal. At the time of photography, in late July, four firing battalions were occupying SA-2 positions within five miles of the waterway.

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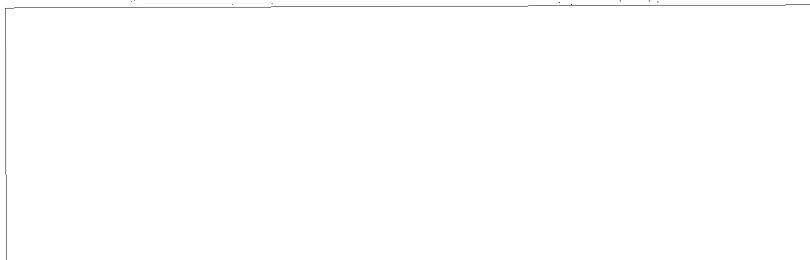
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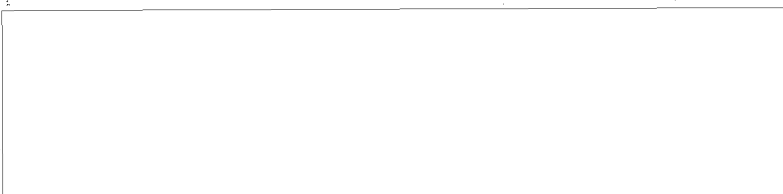
JORDAN

The fedayeen strongly object to King Husayn's recent appointment of Zaid Bin Shakir as assistant chief of staff of the Jordanian Army. Shakir, formerly head of the Third Armored Division, was dismissed last June during the government's confrontation with the fedayeen. The King's acquiescence at that time was viewed as a major defeat.

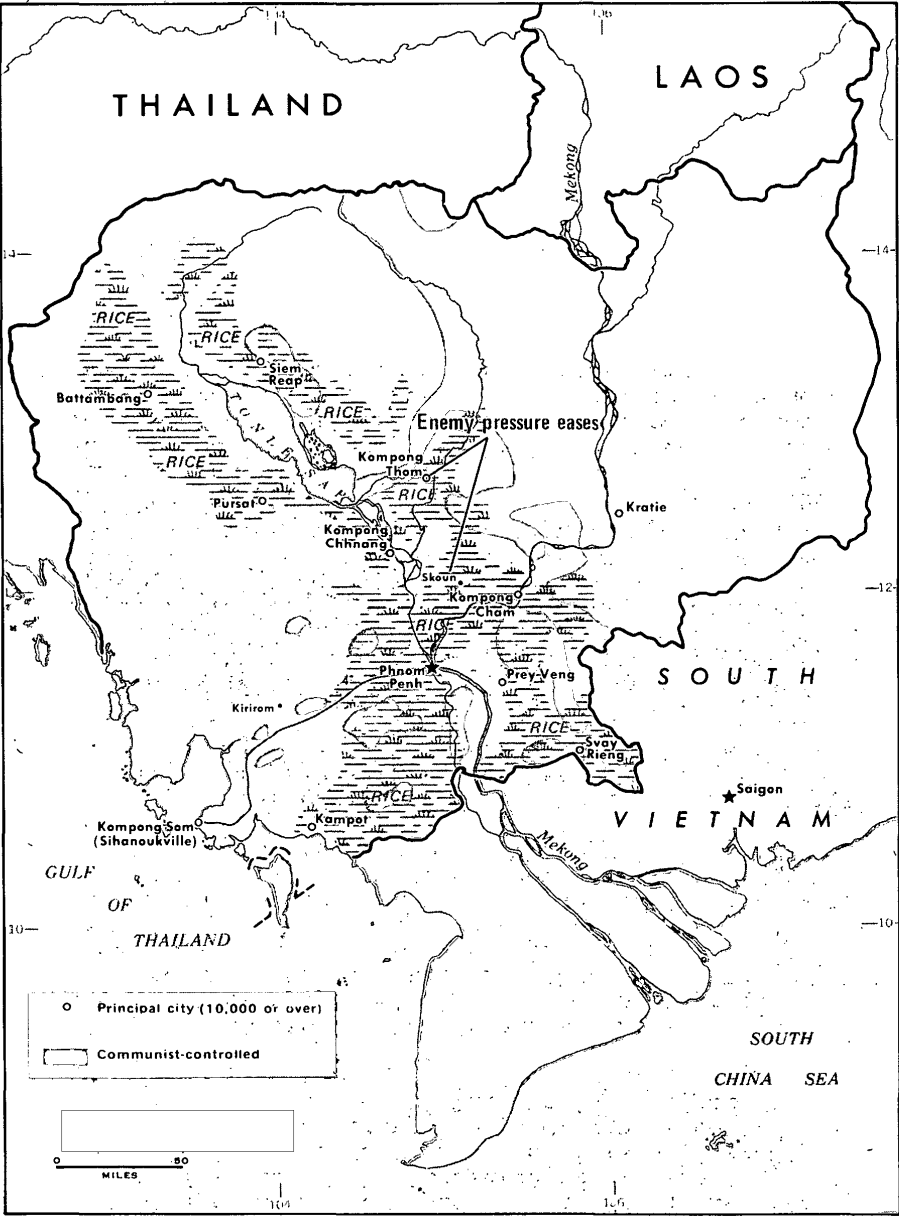
Last Saturday, when Jordanian and fedayeen representatives met to work out implementation of the agreement reached in June, the fedayeen declared that they would attend no more meetings unless the appointment were canceled. The government's refusal to do so caused the fedayeen to walk out, although they did agree to continue low-level meetings to consider some internal security aspects of the agreement.



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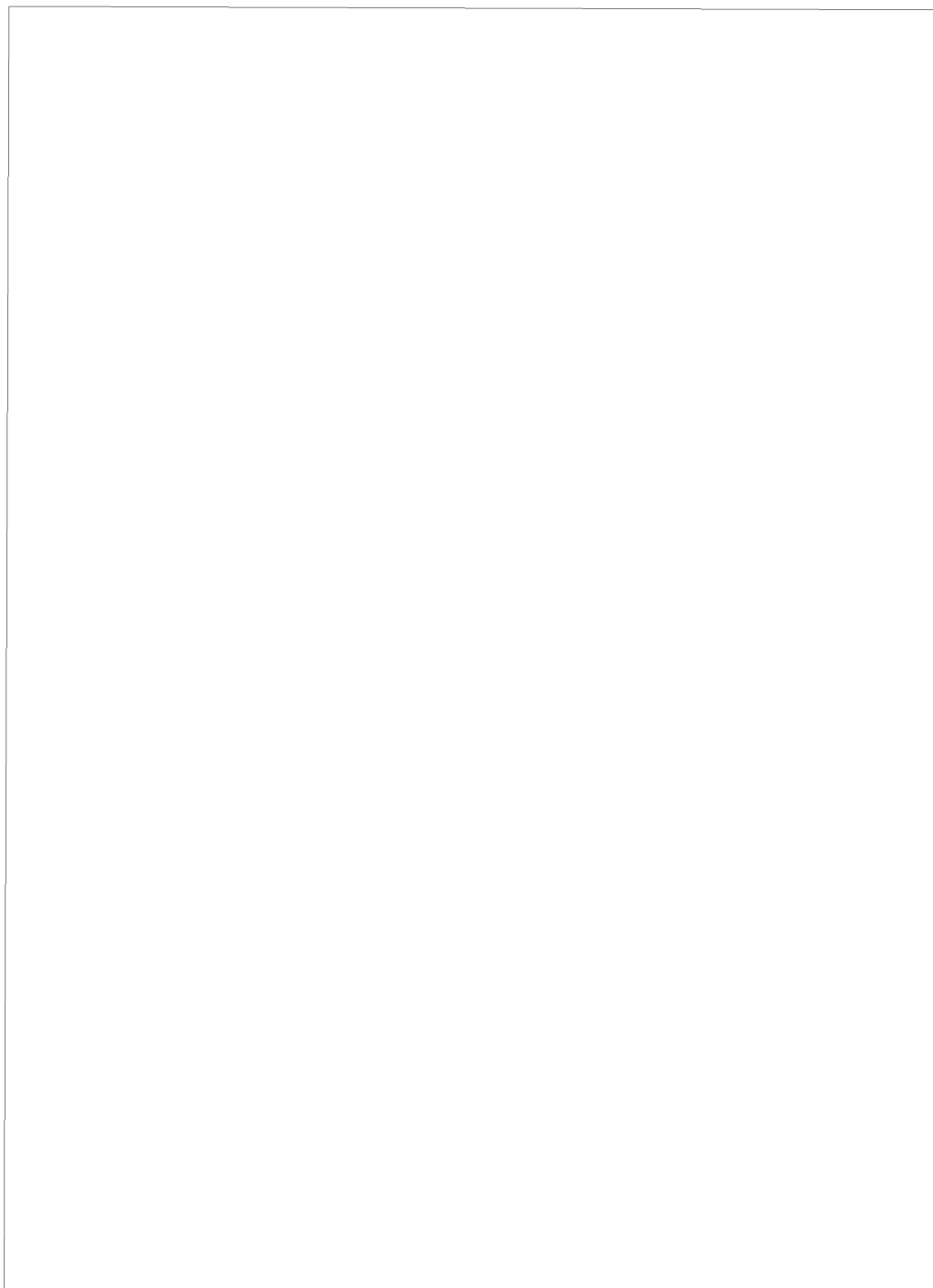
CAMBODIA

The Cambodian Army deputy chief of staff said yesterday that Communist pressure on Kompong Thom has been relieved, and all enemy troops have been driven out of the city. He said air strikes had enabled the garrison to hold its ground. The second successful defense of the city should help boost morale throughout the army. The Communists are still directing some small arms and mortar fire on Kompong Thom from the north and east, and additional enemy attacks on the city may occur after the Communists have regrouped.

The Communists retain control of Skoun, but only a few enemy elements are still there; most of the Communist forces have moved north and west of the town. A small government relief column from Kompong Cham city was in contact with enemy forces east of Skoun yesterday. Three Khmer Krom battalions were proceeding from Phnom Penh on 4 August to retake Skoun and to counter a suspected Communist pincer movement north and west of Kompong Cham city.

Elsewhere, the government's sputtering counter-offensive to recapture Kirirom may be postponed indefinitely. Cambodian Army troops in the area are still beset by bad weather, supply shortages, and sickness. In addition, enemy harassing attacks on Route 4 continue to complicate the movement of supplies and fresh troops destined to support the planned offensive.

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USSR

Satellite photography of 28 July showed five of the new swing-wing Flogger fighter aircraft at Lipetsk airfield where the Soviets in the past have initially deployed new tactical fighters.

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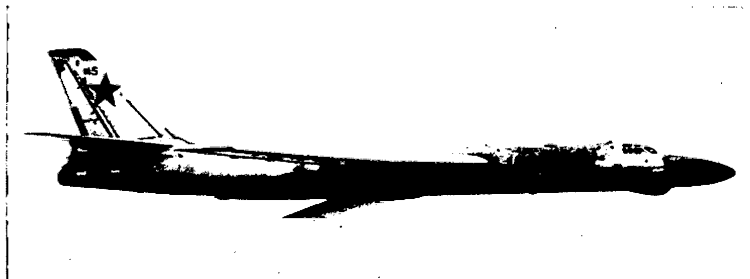
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Soviet Reconnaissance Aircraft in Egypt

TU-16 (BADGER)



AN-12 (CUB)



BE-12 (MAIL)



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USSR-EGYPT

The Soviets appear to be broadening their maritime reconnaissance over the eastern Mediterranean with specially equipped AN-12 transport aircraft. Two AN-12s deployed to the Cairo West Airfield on 21 July

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Visual observations of this aircraft indicate that it is equipped for electronic reconnaissance.

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ITALY

The press reports that the Unitary Socialist Party early today gave its approval for Premier-designate Emilio Colombo to form a new four-party center-left government. The other three parties--Christian Democrat, Republican, and Orthodox Socialist--had given their endorsement yesterday.

Colombo is expected to tell President Saragat later today that he can form a government, thus succeeding Mariano Rumor who resigned several weeks ago. Colombo is a respected economist and lawyer who has been minister of finance in eight previous Italian cabinets.

The "political-programmatic document," which forms the basis for Colombo's reconstitution of the center-left coalition, has five points. The main one concerns the composition of local administrations in the provinces following the June election. It was this issue that was a prime factor in the fall of the Rumor government. According to the document, no center-left party should be vetoed from participating in a center-left provincial coalition, and preference should be given to formation of such an administration where possible. However, Socialist participation in "leftist" coalitions with Communists in some provinces is not to be taken as a "step backward" toward "frontism."

The other points are fairly general to give Colombo latitude in formulating his program. The plank on local administration would give approval to the Socialists joining with the Communists in several provinces where the four center-left parties do not have the votes to form a coalition of their own.

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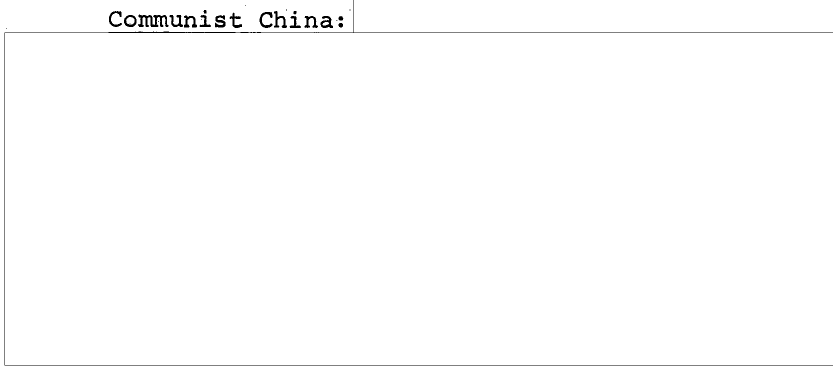


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Communist China:



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